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develop into more or less perfect flowers. I send you a figure which illustrates the appearance of one of these peculiar forms. The shrub flowers very early in the spring, and ripens a short, thick pod, containing from one to three large red seeds, called Indian beans, which are said to be poisonous to children, who sometimes eat them.

Mr. J. H. McArthur writes: "Our Angora goats browse freely on the shrub, and frequently swallow the beans without ill effects, but that may be owing to these being too hard for their teeth to crack, as they are found about the pens, having passed through them unbroken."—GEORGE VASEY.

**Thalictrum purpurascens, var. ceriferum, in North Carolina.**—Though this species of *Thalictrum* is not mentioned in Chapman's *Flora* as occurring in the Southern United States, nor in Curtis' "Catalogue of the Indigenous and Naturalized Plants of the State of North Carolina," yet I have found several plants of the variety *ceriferum* growing luxuriantly on rocks at Flat Rock, Henderson county. It grows to the height of five feet and agrees in all respects with the description given on page 39, Gray's *Manual*, the fruit and leaves being covered with "waxy atoms" and "exhaling a peculiar odor;" it was in full flower May 24th.—E. R. MEMMINGER, *Flat Rock, N. C.*

**Dry weather foliage of the Compass plant.**—This immediate section of country has been subjected to a prolonged and severe drouth. There has been not far from one inch of rainfall since the last snow-storm of early March. In addition to this we had a very dry summer and autumn last year, so that the rainfall has been unusually light for a whole year. Nearly all wells that never fail in ordinary seasons are now dry, and the college campus exhibits the strange appearance of a brown and apparently lifeless turf studded with dwarfed red clover plants which are in feeble bloom. The leaves upon trees and shrubs are fewer than usual and much reduced in size.

There are a few kinds of plants that seem to flourish under the peculiar arid conditions which now obtain; but even these are somewhat changed in their general appearance. The foliage of the compass plant (*Silphium laciniatum* L.) is particularly noticeable at this time. The leaves of this composite have a strikingly refreshing glossy green which is in sharp contrast with the surrounding dwarfed and dried herbage. But when the foliage is compared with that of its own species, in former years, a great change is seen. There may not be very much difference in the relative size of the leaves of this year with those of last season, but they are more numerous, and each leaf exposes far less surface to the hot, drying sun. In short, the average leaf of this *Silphium* is reduced to the midrib, with a thin web of green tissue upon each side, and its many lateral veins and their sub-veins bearing narrow ribbons of pulpy tissue. In other words, the foliage, true to the specific name, is very